

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN>](mailto:Washburn.Ben@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN)
To: ["R7 Daily Digest" <Group>](#)
CC:
Date: 9/30/2014 2:42:03 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 9/30/14

OPA Daily Digest for 9/30/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.) – Email – 9/5/14: Deed restriction on contaminated property near the Missouri Electric Works site in Cape Girardeau. Due: 9/12/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Columbia Daily Tribune – Jim Robertson – 9/29/14: Pitched op-ed about the Waters of the U.S. proposal. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Living the Country Life (Iowa magazine) – Jodi Henke - 9/30/14: Pitched Oct. 3 Brody Middle School, news event in Des Moines, Iowa about water quality issues in Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

WHO-TV, Des Moines - Brandon Blue - 9/30/14: Pitched Oct. 3 Brody Middle School, news event in Des Moines, Iowa about water quality issues in Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

WHO Radio, Des Moines – Doug Cooper - 9/30/14: Pitched Oct. 3 Brody Middle School, news event in Des Moines, Iowa about water quality issues in Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Inside Washington Publishing – Doug Obey – 9/30/14: Requested a copy of speech delivered by the regional administrator to the Midwest Energy Policy Conference in St. Louis, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Looking for intelligent decisions to fight landfill fire - 9/30/14 - The current state of affairs at the Bridgeton landfill is a modern-day comedy created by whoever is responsible for the contents ("Fear of bird strikes figures into future of landfills," Sept. 28). http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/mailbag/looking-for-intelligent-decisions-to-fight-landfill-fire/article_f56c661c-0291-5a57-8e83-d3c0c81ad0cd.html

Associated Industries of Missouri - Proposed EPA regulations will harm Missouri industries - 9/24/14 - Energy consumers throughout the State of Missouri will soon feel the impact of recently issued regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency that seek to limit carbon emissions from the U.S. power fleet. <http://aimo.com/2014/09/24/proposed-epa-regulations-will-harm-missouri-industries/>

Kansas Dental Association - EPA proposes rule requiring dentists to install amalgam separators - 9/25/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today proposed a rule under the Clean Water Act requiring dentists to install amalgam separators to help cut discharges of dental amalgam to the environment. <http://www.ksdental.org/epa-proposes-rule-requiring-dentists-to-install-amalgam-separators/>

Des Moines Register - Branstad speaks against proposed EPA water rule - 9/30/14 - Gov. Terry Branstad joined a coalition of agriculture, business and government leaders Monday to voice opposition to a proposed rule they say could require farmers to get federal permits to do work around ditches, culverts and irrigation ponds. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2014/09/30/branstad-oppose-proposed-water-rule/16465289/>
NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

Des Moines Register - Feds should rethink the clean-water rules - 9/29/14 - We agree that clean water requires good, clear, well-designed regulations. Unfortunately, the ones currently being proposed are not. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2014/09/30/debi-durham-mike-ralston-clean-water-act/16462923/>
NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

AgWires - NACD Meets With EPA on WOTUS - 9/29/14 - Representatives of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) met with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials last week to express concerns on behalf of member conservation districts regarding the proposed "Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) rule. <http://agwired.com/2014/09/29/nacd-meets-with-epa-on-wotus/>

KCCI Ch. 8 Des Moines, Iowa - EPA: Company must pay nearly \$1M for violations - 9/29/14 - Environmental officials say a pipe company must pay \$950,000 for air and water violations at its former Council Bluffs facility. <http://www.kcci.com/news/epa-company-must-pay-nearly-1m-for-violations/28325048>

WOWT Ch. 6 Omaha, Neb. - Polluting Company, EPA Reach Agreement - 9/29/14 - The Council Bluffs plant closed down months ago, but Monday, the EPA announced Griffin Pipe Products has agreed to pay a nearly \$1 million dollar penalty to resolve Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act Violations. <http://www.wowt.com/home/headlines/Polluting-Company-EPA-Reach-Agreement-277480311.html>

Lincoln Journal-Star - Editorial: Seize the moment on climate change - 9/30/14 - The UNL report released last week could mark the moment that Nebraska started to prepare for climate change. Twelve states already have climate adaptation plans. It's time for Nebraska's elected officials and other policymakers to go to work. http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/editorial-seize-the-moment-on-climate-change/article_e3143f0a-b145-5281-be62-1b58493b5c1b.html

Kansas City Star - Editorial: Local actions can help combat global climate change - 9/27/14 - Fighting climate change starts at home. In this region, that includes a million households, tens of thousands of businesses, and many local, state and federal government offices. <http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article2260664.html>

Columbia Tribune (Mo.) - Opinion: MU seems conflicted on climate change - 9/28/14 - MU is quick to advertise its "greenness," but covert programs such as this only leave one wondering where the university's heart is. We must pursue every option to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible. Please do whatever you can, and that goes for MU as well. http://www.columbiatribune.com/opinion/oped/mu-seems-conflicted-on-climate-change/article_7742ffb7-fcc2-5828-8a2e-9a37bc484f15.html

WaterWorld - Iowa City Successfully Meets Nitrogen Removal Challenge with Vertical Loop Reactors - 9/29/14 - Economic development has its price, and sometimes it calls for major upgrades to a community's wastewater treatment facilities. Such was the case in the city of Fort Dodge, Iowa. <http://www.waterworld.com/articles/print/volume-30/issue-9/weftec-show-preview/iowa-city-successfully-meets-nitrogen-removal-challenge-with-vertical-loop-reactors.html>

Lincoln Journal-Star - State will release oil train information, Heineman says - 9/30/14 - Reversing earlier policy, Gov. Dave Heineman said Monday officials will release

information on crude oil shipments crossing the state by train. "I believe we've received notice from the Attorney General's Office that those shipments will be made public," Heineman said at a news conference Monday. http://journalstar.com/business/local/state-will-release-oil-train-information-heineman-says/article_d1392a44-0678-5935-b7b0-b72dbcf5b1f9.html

Lincoln Journal-Star - Developer plans 11,000-acre Nebraska wind farm - 9/13/14 - An international company has applied for permits to build a wind farm with 54 turbines in southern Lancaster and northern Gage counties. http://journalstar.com/news/local/developer-plans-acre-nebraska-wind-farm/article_818e9d7f-48d4-5ab8-99da-46108304a4ed.html

Columbia Tribune (Mo.) - Brooks: Clean Water Serves American Agriculture, Businesses and Community Health - 9/30/14 - The comment process is enriched when we hear from landowners, the business community, farmers, scientists, conservationists, energy companies, states and local governments. The agencies need to hear valuable experience, clear perspectives and important information. http://www.columbiatribune.com/opinion/oped/clean-water-serves-american-agriculture-businesses-and-community-health/article_d10baa02-0d29-5646-9a05-7713393f03ed.html

Des Moines Register - Defunct Council Bluffs plant agrees to reduce lead emissions - 9/30/14 - Griffin Pipe Products, a now defunct Council Bluffs business, has agreed to reduce its lead air pollution emissions should it reopen. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2014/09/30/griffin-pipe-products-council-bluffs-epa-lead-emissions/16478583/>

Omaha World-Herald - \$950,000 EPA penalty hangs over closed Griffin Pipe factory - 9/30/14 - If Griffin Pipe reopens, it would have to pay a \$950,000 civil penalty and reduce lead emissions. EPA officials on Monday announced an agreement with Griffin Pipe Products LLC to settle violations of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. It is unclear whether the plant will reopen. http://www.omaha.com/money/epa-penalty-hangs-over-closed-griffin-pipe-factory/article_8c772749-f69f-5fa0-97b6-84c04f06cdce.html

Radio Iowa - Group protests outside Governor's meeting on water quality - 9/30/14 - Around one dozen members of the group "Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement Action Fund" gathered outside the office of the Association for Business and Industry Monday where the governor was set to hold meetings with what he calls "stakeholders" to talk about clean water issues. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/09/30/group-protests-outside-governors-meeting-on-water-quality/>

Platts - Kansas co-op Sunflower cuts coal plant generation to conserve fuel - 9/29/14 - Sunflower Electric Power's 360-MW Holcomb coal-fired power plant in western Kansas is among the latest in a growing list of US generating stations to experience backlogs in rail deliveries of low-sulfur Powder River Basin coal, shortages that have led to generation cuts, the co-op said Monday. <http://www.platts.com/latest-news/coal/louisville-kentucky/kansas-co-op-sunflower-cuts-coal-plant-generation-21305722>

NPR - Everything But The Squeal: How The Hog Industry Cuts Food Waste - 9/30/14 - The rendering industry likes to call itself the world's oldest recycling system. Nearly 100 percent of processed pigs will eventually get used — as meat and in uses as varied as medicine and pet food. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2014/09/29/351495505/everything-but-the-squeal-how-the-hog-industry-cuts-food-waste>

VOX - Solar power is growing so fast that older energy companies are trying to stop it - 9/29/14 - If you ask the people who run America's electric utilities what keeps them up at night, a surprising number will say solar power. Specifically, rooftop solar. <http://www.vox.com/2014/9/29/6849723/solar-power-net-metering-utilities-fight-states>

WNAX Radio Yankton, S.D. - ICCI Supports WOTUS Proposed Rule - 9/30/14 - Monday, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement members protested in Des Moines ahead of a meeting of stakeholders opposed to EPA's proposed Waters of the U.S. Rule. <http://wnax.com/news/180081-icci-supports-wotus-proposed-rule/>

EcoWatch - The Power to Solve Climate Change - 9/29/14 - What's it going to take to turn the corner to a safe and stable climate? People power and market power. That was my main takeaway from a whirlwind week in New York City. <http://ecowatch.com/2014/09/29/power-solve-climate-change/>

Biofuels Digest - API says EPA can't boost biodiesel RFS targets - 9/29/14 - In Washington, the Clean Air Act explicitly prohibits the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from increasing the biomass-based diesel mandate for the 2014 compliance year, wrote American Petroleum Institute (API) Downstream Group Director Bob Greco in a letter sent Friday to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. <http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2014/09/29/api-says-epa-cant-boost-biodiesel-rfs-targets/>

Food and Water Watch - What Will it Take for the EPA to Act on Fracking? - 9/29/14 - It is well known that drilling and fracking contaminate water and it's happening all across

the United States. Yet President Obama and his administration, including the Environmental Protection Agency, are not only letting this happen unchecked, they're actively promoting and expanding fracking. <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/blogs/what-will-it-take-for-the-epa-to-act-on-fracking/>

Times-Picayune (New Orleans) - EPA chief Gina McCarthy asks water professionals to back new wetland rules - 9/29/14 - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy spoke Monday to the Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference to ask 18,000 water and wastewater professionals for help in supporting the agency's controversial "Waters of the U.S." rule. http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/09/epa_administrator_gina_mccarth_2.html

The Hill - Auditors fault EPA for lax chemical safeguards - 9/29/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) doesn't do enough to stop hundreds of hazardous chemicals from getting into waterways via sewage plants, a watchdog report found. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/219233-auditors-fault-epa-for-lax-chemical-safeguards>

TIME - The Climate Deniers' Newest Argument - 9/29/14 - 9/29/14 - It's a lot easier to attack environmental scientists when you make up something they didn't say—and then criticize them for saying it. <http://time.com/3445231/climate-denier-settled-science/>

The Guardian (U.K.) - Earth lost 50% of its wildlife in the past 40 years, says WWF - 9/29/14 - The number of wild animals on Earth has halved in the past 40 years, according to a new analysis. Species across land, rivers and seas have been decimated as humans kill for food in unsustainable numbers and destroy habitats. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/sep/29/earth-lost-50-wildlife-in-40-years-wwf>

Christian Science Monitor - Goodbye coal, oil? Team tests cheaper way to use sunlight to produce hydrogen (+video) - 9/26/14 - In principle, solar-derived hydrogen could replace fossil fuels for uses ranging from powering vehicles to producing electricity via fuel cells. One 'proof of concept' way to achieve this is outlined in Friday's issue of Science. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2014/0926/Goodbye-coal-oil-Team-tests-cheaper-way-to-use-sunlight-to-produce-hydrogen-video>

Christian Science Monitor - Was Climate Week successful? [Recharge] - 9/26/14 - Climate Week had no shortage of speeches, pledges, and marches, but left little in the way of concrete global action on climate change. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0929/Was-Climate-Week-successful-Recharge>

Christian Science Monitor - How solar power is changing your utility bill (and your utility) - 9/29/14 - The rise of solar power has created an ongoing debate about so-called 'net energy metering,' where customers can offset their utility bill with rooftop solar power – upsetting some utilities in the process. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0929/How-solar-power-is-changing-your-utility-bill-and-your-utility>

Greenwire - Stakes high for agencies as justices weigh key rulemaking tool - 9/29/14 - When the Supreme Court returns this week, its docket will be missing the high-profile environmental cases that dominated last term. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006570/>

Greenwire - Watchdogs tell White House to stop meddling with FOIA requests - 9/29/14 - Several prominent watchdog organizations told the White House today to stop interfering with the Freedom of Information Act process. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006563/>

Greenwire - States seeking technical advice on aspects of EPA power plant proposal - 9/29/14 - Senior U.S. EPA personnel spent much of the summer briefing states about the agency's proposal to limit greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants, according to new entries posted to the draft rule's docket. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006572/>

Greenwire - Senate candidates clash over regs, climate in first debate - 9/30/14 - Democratic Rep. Bruce Braley and Republican Joni Ernst yesterday clashed over climate change, environmental regulations and outside spending in a combative first debate. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006566/>

Greenwire - Watchdogs urge agency to pay whistleblower bounties - 9/30/14 - Buried in the Clean Air Act is a provision that allows the U.S. EPA administrator to shell out up to \$10,000 to whistleblowers whose tips help authorities track down lawbreakers. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006564/>

ClimateWire - Climate effects of 'black carbon' exaggerated, study says - 9/29/14 - The impact of "black carbon," or soot, on warming the climate has been significantly

exaggerated because of assumptions over altitudes in the atmosphere at which soot particles become concentrated, according to a recent study.

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060006537/>

ClimateWire - Report shows utilities have major room to improve efficiency and create products - 9/30/14 - U.S. water utilities remain energy inefficient and have plenty of leaks to plug, but there are significant opportunities for improvement and innovation, according to a report published yesterday.

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060006604/>

ClimateWire - As temperatures rise in coming decades, climate 'refugees' have few options - 9/30/14 - Scientists forecasting cities and regions that will remain relatively safe from extreme storms, destructive flooding and brutal drought don't point to many options. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060006591/>

BNA - EPA Administrator Says Nation Must Prepare For Climate Change, Fight Nutrient Pollution - 9/29/14 - Tackling nutrient pollution, shoring up water infrastructure, and preparing communities for climate change and extreme weather events are among the most significant environmental challenges facing the country today, the Environmental Protection Agency administrator said Sept. 29. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56935194&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6n3x2h5&split=0

BNA - EPA Rules for Sewage Plants Don't Control Some Chemical Discharges, IG Report Says - 9/29/14 - Environmental Protection Agency regulation of discharges to and from sewage treatment plants isn't effective in controlling the discharge of hundreds of hazardous chemicals into lakes and streams, the agency's inspector general said in a report released Sept. 29. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56935209&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6n4p6p3&split=0

BNA - EPA Expects 'Unprecedented' Comments On U.S. Waters Rule, Head of Region 1 Says - 9/29/14 - Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 Administrator Curt Spalding, along with state and federal lawmakers and environmental advocacy groups, urged support for proposed rules designed to protect the waters of the U.S. during an event Sept. 29 on the banks of the Connecticut River in Hartford, Conn. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56935222&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6n7r5e9&split=0

BNA - Advisory Panel Finishing Letter Supporting Science in Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Rule - 9/29/14 - The rule proposed by federal regulators to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act is based on sound science and could be justifiably extended to even more waters, according to a panel of scientists advising the Environmental Protection Agency. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56935223&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6n7t3a9&split=0

BNA - White House OMB Completes Review Of Proposal on Uranium Mill Tailings - 9/29/14 - The White House Office of Management and Budget returned a proposal Sept. 26 to the Environmental Protection Agency regarding health and environmental protections for uranium and thorium mill tailings and uranium in-situ leach processing facilities. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56935187&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6n2u2q8&split=0

BNA - Envoy Says U.S. to Push Arctic Council to Act On Black Carbon, Methane Starting in 2015 - 9/29/14 - The new U.S. envoy to the Arctic Council vowed Sept. 29 to press member nations for actions on black carbon and methane—two short-lived but powerful greenhouse gases—when the U.S. assumes a two-year chairmanship of the body in the spring of 2015. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56935201&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6n4b9j8&split=0

BNA - Iowa Pipe Company Agrees to Resolve Issues With Lead Emissions, Pay \$950,000 Penalty - 9/29/14 - Griffin Pipe Products, formerly of Council Bluffs, Iowa, has agreed to resolve issues with its lead emissions and pay a civil penalty of \$950,000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56935206&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6n4n4r2&split=0

BNA - Giles Says EPA Seeks Better Communication Among States Through Compliance Program - 9/29/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency is looking to strengthen communication among states through its Next Generation Compliance efforts, a senior EPA enforcement official said Sept. 29. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56935227&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6n7z5w6&split=0

BNA - Occidental Petroleum Latest to Leave ALEC; Shareholder Group Had Challenged Funding - 9/29/14 - Occidental Petroleum Corp., one of the largest U.S. oil producers, plans to leave the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) lobbying group, according to a letter from the Houston-based company released by an activist investor

group. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56935213&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6n4q5x5&split=0

BNA - Report Ties Heat Waves to Climate Change, But Link Not as Clear for Droughts, Storms - 9/29/14 - Human-caused climate change clearly increased the severity and likelihood of 2013 heat waves in Australia and other parts of the world, according to an annual report published in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society Sept. 29. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56935208&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f6n4p6m1&split=0

Inside EPA - Argonne Plans To Raise Oil's GHG Values Due To Greater Tar Sands Use - 9/29/14 - The Department of Energy's (DOE) Argonne National Laboratory is poised to release an updated modeling tool that shows increasing life-cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from petroleum due to greater use of high-carbon shale and tar sands oils. <http://dev.insideepa.com/climate-daily-news/argonne-plans-raise-oils-ghg-values-due-greater-tar-sands-use>

Inside EPA - Groups' Petition To Block Nuclear Licenses Could Hamper ESPS Compliance - 9/29/14 - Environmentalists are seeking to block the licensing of 23 nuclear reactors at 14 sites across the country over waste disposal concerns. <http://dev.insideepa.com/climate-daily-news/groups-petition-block-nuclear-licenses-could-hamper-esps-compliance>

Inside EPA - NREL Crafting Study To Examine State Hurdles For Complying With ESPS - 9/29/14 - The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is in the beginning stages of developing a first-time study examining the hurdles states may face in using end-use energy efficiency together with other compliance flexibilities to comply with EPA's existing source performance standards (ESPS). <http://dev.insideepa.com/climate-daily-news/nrel-crafting-study-examine-state-hurdles-complying-esps>

Inside EPA - States Urge Court To Reverse GHG Permit Ruling Until EPA Sets New Limit - 9/29/14 - Texas, Wyoming and several industry groups are asking a federal appeals court to reverse its earlier ruling that upheld EPA's takeover of the two states' greenhouse gas (GHG) permit programs. <http://dev.insideepa.com/climate-daily-news/states-urge-court-reverse-ghg-permit-ruling-until-epa-sets-new-limit>

Inside EPA - EPA Seeks To Ease Air Monitoring Requirements For Overburdened States - 9/29/14 - EPA is proposing to streamline and simplify its air quality monitoring requirements in order to help reduce burdens for states that are struggling to meet the mandates due to shrinking budgets. <http://insideepa.com/daily-news/epa-seeks-ease-air-monitoring-requirements-overburdened-states>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

EPA Region 7 Administrator, Brody Middle School Students to Increase Awareness of Water Quality Oct. 3 in Des Moines, Iowa – 9/30/14 – Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

9/30/14 – Strong Cities Strong Communities Update with Mayor Francis Slay, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Charlie Foley, 7710

9/30/14 – Midwest Energy Policy Conference, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

10/1/14 – Meeting with Jason Klumb, Regional Administrator for GSA, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

10/2/14 – Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

10/4/14 – Iowa Sierra Club Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flourney, 7782

10/3/14 – Iowa Water Challenges Outreach Event with Brody Middle School, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

10/9/14 – Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environmental Roundtable and Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

10/10/14 – Nebraska State Bar Association, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

***10/21-22/14** – EPA Lean Summit, Washington, D.C. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

10/30/14 – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

11/12/14 – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on “Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

11/18/14 – Region 7 Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers, Regional Office. Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533

DRA:

10/1/14 – Meeting with Jason Klumb, Regional Administrator for GSA, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

10/7/14 - Employee Appreciation Event, Regional Office contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

10/30/14 – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

11/12/14 – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on “Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

9/30/14 - 10/2/14 - Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Project Officer Training, Washington, D.C. Contact: Corazzin, 7429

9/30/14 – National EJ Coordinator’s Meeting in Washington, D.C. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

10/5-8/14 – Superfund 101 Training, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: A. Moses, 7649

10/19-22/14 – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, D.C., Contact: D. Singletary, x7373

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers’ Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

10/7/14 – Greater St. Louis Sub-Area Committee, Industry Day Workshop for spill response strategies on the lower Missouri River, St. Charles, Mo. – Contact: Jeff Weatherford 636-326-4720

10/22/14 – Public Availability Session to discuss remedial action and the Five Year Review for the Parkview Well Site, Grand Island, Neb. Contact: Brad Vann, 7611

WWPD

9/30-10/2/14 – North Central Region Water Network’s Water Resource Management Conference, Bloomington, Minn. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

10/8-9/14 – 2014 National CAFO Roundtable, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

10/15-16/14 – Big River Task Force Meeting with Other State and Federal Agencies, Farmington, Mo. Contact: Jeannette Schafer, 7297

10/20-21/14 – Hypoxia Task Force Meeting, Alton, Ill. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

11/3-6/14 – EPA Tribal 106 Coordinators Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

Des Moines Register

Defunct Council Bluffs plant agrees to reduce lead emissions

By Matthew Patane

11:26 a.m. CDT September 30, 2014

Griffin Pipe Products, a now defunct Council Bluffs business, has agreed to reduce its lead air pollution emissions should it reopen.

The Environmental Protection Agency said this week that Griffin Pipe has agreed to settle on violations of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. Under the settlement, Griffin Pipe has to pay a civil penalty of \$950,000.

Griffin Pipe's parent company, U.S. Pipe Holdings, shut down the Council Bluffs plant earlier this year. The plant employed about 250 people in the area.

Since it is closed, the EPA said Griffin Pipe has agreed to lower its lead emissions should it reopen.

The EPA issued a violation notice to Griffin Pipe in 2010 after three tests found the plant had exceeded lead emissions limits.

Between April 2007 and April 2008, the EPA said Griffin Pipe had also illegally discharged untreated process wastewater that had higher-than-permitted concentrations of lead and zinc.

Des Moines Register

Branstad speaks against proposed EPA water rule

By Joel Aschbrenner

September 30, 2014

Gov. Terry Branstad joined a coalition of agriculture, business and government leaders Monday to voice opposition to a proposed rule they say could require farmers to get federal permits to do work around ditches, culverts and irrigation ponds.

The proposal from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency aims to clarify which waterways fall under federal oversight.

Branstad said the rule would add bureaucratic layers, making it more difficult for farmers to implement conservation practices that improve water quality.

The EPA "is blind to what is really going on in the real world," he said. "To me, it seems like maybe good intentions, but counterproductive."

But farm conservation practices aimed at improving water quality are only voluntary and more oversight is needed, environmental groups say.

"It's not burdensome. It's clearly what is needed to protect our water from dirty ag, from corporate ag," said Deborah Bunka, a volunteer with Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement.

Members of the group demonstrated outside the meeting, which was organized by the Homebuilders Association of Iowa and held at the Iowa Association of Business and Industries office in downtown Des Moines. Their chanting was loud enough to briefly disrupt the meeting.

"They ought to quit shouting and start listening to the people who will be most affected," Branstad said. The proposed rule "is going to prevent the things we're doing to clean the water."

The EPA has said the rule does not expand its authority and that all normal farming practices are exempt.

Representatives of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Iowa League of Cities and several agriculture and business groups, though, said the proposed rule was too ambiguous.

Joel Brinkmeyer, CEO of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa, said he is concerned it could require farmers to obtain a federal permit anytime they spray fertilizer.

"We believe strongly that this rule cannot be amended to be fixed," he said. "It needs to be ditched."

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey said the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture recently voted to ask the EPA to drop the proposed rule, rather than try to alter it.

"This rule, from our point of view, isn't even fixable, certainly not with the attitude the EPA has right now," he said.

Des Moines Register

Feds should rethink the clean-water rules

By Debi Durham and Mike Ralston
September 29, 2014

Earlier this year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers proposed sweeping changes to the federal Clean Water Act regulations that promise to have a significant impact on development in Iowa.

These changes have been called a "federal land grab" and even a "regulatory attack on our economy." The proposed changes are neither of those things, and it isn't constructive to demagogue the issue or trivialize the real problem we have with water quality in this state.

However, that doesn't mean the proposed changes are good regulations, either.

A good regulation would be clear, so everyone knows what is allowed and when a permit is required. Instead, the proposed regulations are less clear than current law and promise to be tied up in the courts for years to come, creating uncertainty within industries and communities across the state.

=====

This uncertainty stems from a change to the manner in which the federal government will determine which bodies of water to regulate. Today, because its authority is constitutionally limited to matters that affect interstate commerce, the federal government regulates interstate bodies of water, bodies of water traditionally considered "navigable" and other bodies of water that have relatively permanent levels of flow.

In other words, the public can usually determine, without special expertise, when a permit is required by assessing whether a tributary contributes flow to a larger body of water like the Mississippi River.

However, the proposed regulations scrap this common sense approach in favor of a nebulous "significant nexus" standard. The regulations say that this standard requires something that is "more than speculative," but exactly what that means will almost certainly be left to the courts.

=====

The likely result is that future permitting determinations will rest not on common sense but on the scientific findings of federal regulators. Only the deepest of pockets will be able to hire the experts necessary to dispute such findings, tilting the playing field even further in the direction of the federal government.

A good regulation would also engage state governments, local communities and affected industries as active partners in the regulatory decision-making process. Instead, the proposed regulations seek to federalize many of the land use and economic development decisions that should be made by state officials and local communities. By its own admission, the federal government's proposed regulations expand the scope of its jurisdiction by at least 3 percent and likely by much more than that.

Because there are civil and even criminal penalties imposed for failing to obtain the necessary federal permits, prudent landowners will err on the side of seeking one if there is even a little uncertainty. And, again, for many years, there will be much uncertainty while disputes wind their way through the courts.

=====

Meanwhile, the creation of new jobs and new neighborhoods will be delayed while local businesses and developers anxiously await the result of critical federal permitting decisions, which can take hundreds of days. Though it's not fair to accuse the EPA or the Army Corps of deliberately halting economic development, it is fair to say that no one cares more about local water quality than those of us who drink it and swim in it.

And when it comes time to decide how best to improve our water quality without affecting our jobs and our homes, it ought to be done by those of us with the most at stake in the outcome.

A good regulation would also be undertaken only after a thorough and forthright analysis of all of the costs and benefits involved. Instead, the federal government's economic analysis is skewed heavily in favor of the benefits of regulation and neglects to account for some of the most basic and predictable costs, such as the economic impact of permitting delays.

Large industrial projects can calculate to the dollar how much revenue will be lost per day while a plant sits idle. Housing developers and landlords can amortize the financing cost of bridge loans and lost rents for each day they cannot recoup their investments. Yet the federal government cannot be troubled to make even rudimentary estimates as to the economic impacts of their permitting processes.

=====

We shouldn't expect water quality to improve without sensible regulations, and even sensible regulations will carry some private sector costs. But the federal government should know what these costs are and communicate them to the public. We all want clean water, but as we collectively decide how to pursue that goal, we must be able to make informed decisions about the tradeoffs involved.

Finally, a good regulation would take account of and plan for unintended consequences. Instead, the federal government's proposed regulation seems to be more concerned with asserting federal control over local water bodies than it is with seeing that local water quality actually improves.

For example, farmers, ranchers and even water quality advocates have noted that the proposed regulation is likely to curtail many voluntary water quality improvement projects if such projects would trigger the cost and delay of seeking federal permits. Again, such unintended consequences are precisely why the federal government needs to better engage state governments, local communities, and affected industries.

For all these reasons, the EPA and the Army Corps should reconsider their proposed Clean Water Act regulations. It is possible to construct good, well-considered regulations. In fact, the EPA itself has done a better job engaging state and local stakeholders as part of its Clean Air Act proposals which try to take into account the unique situation of each state and encourage the implementation of plans that are flexible and achievable.

We agree that clean water requires good, clear, well-designed regulations. Unfortunately, the ones currently being proposed are not.

=====

DEBI DURHAM is director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority. MIKE RALSTON is president of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry. Contact: communications@iowaeconomicdevelopment.com.